

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 308

2 INTRODUCED BY MALCOLM, CLARK, JOHN BALYEAT, EVERETT, GUTSCHE, NOONAN, HARRIS,
3 SINRUD, SALES, WHEAT

4
5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT INCLUDING MAINTAINING OR ENHANCING STREAMFLOWS TO
6 BENEFIT THE FISHERY RESOURCE IN THE DEFINITION OF "APPROPRIATE"; INCLUDING A USE OF
7 WATER FOR INSTREAM FLOW TO BENEFIT THE FISHERY RESOURCE IN THE DEFINITION OF
8 "BENEFICIAL USE"; REMOVING THE SPECIFIC STATUTORY GUIDANCE RELATED TO THE UPPER
9 CLARK FORK RIVER BASIN AND INCLUDING THOSE REQUIREMENTS IN EXISTING STATUTES;
10 REMOVING THE LIMITATION ON THE NUMBER OF TIMES THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
11 AND CONSERVATION MAY RENEW A TEMPORARY CHANGE APPLICATION; PROVIDING THAT AN
12 APPROPRIATOR MUST PROVIDE NOTICE TO THE DEPARTMENT TO RENEW A TEMPORARY CHANGE
13 AND INCREASING THE PERIOD FOR SUBMISSION OF NEW EVIDENCE OF ADVERSE EFFECTS TO OTHER
14 WATER RIGHTS; REMOVING THE 30-YEAR LIMITATION ON A TEMPORARY CHANGE FOR WATER THAT
15 IS MADE AVAILABLE FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW WATER CONSERVATION OR STORAGE
16 PROJECT; PROVIDING THAT A TEMPORARY CHANGE AUTHORIZATION APPLICANT MUST INCLUDE
17 CERTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING STREAM REACH, LOCATION, AND A STREAMFLOW MEASURING
18 PLAN; REMOVING THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE OWNER OF THE WATER RIGHT MUST VOLUNTARILY
19 CHANGE OR LEASE A CONSUMPTIVE USE WATER RIGHT; REMOVING THE REQUIREMENT THAT AN
20 APPLICANT FOR A TEMPORARY CHANGE PROVIDE NOTICE 30 DAYS PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF
21 APPLICATION; PROVIDING THAT THE MAXIMUM QUANTITY OF WATER THAT MAY BE DIVERTED TO
22 MAINTAIN OR ENHANCE STREAMFLOWS TO BENEFIT THE FISHERY RESOURCES MAY NOT EXCEED
23 THE HISTORICALLY DIVERTED AMOUNT, EXCEPT THAT ONLY THE AMOUNT HISTORICALLY
24 CONSUMED, OR A SMALLER AMOUNT IF SPECIFIED IN THE LEASE AUTHORIZATION, MAY BE USED TO
25 MAINTAIN OR ENHANCE STREAMFLOWS BELOW THE LESSOR'S POINT OF DIVERSION; REPEALING THE
26 TERMINATION DATE FOR TEMPORARY CHANGES TO MAINTAIN OR ENHANCE STREAMFLOWS TO
27 BENEFIT THE FISHERY; REPEALING THE TERMINATION DATE ON LEASING FOR THE PURPOSE OF
28 MAINTAINING OR ENHANCING STREAMFLOWS TO BENEFIT THE FISHERY; AMENDING SECTIONS
29 85-2-102, 85-2-338, 85-2-402, 85-2-404, 85-2-407, 85-2-408, 85-2-419, AND 85-2-436, MCA; REPEALING
30 SECTIONS 85-2-409, 85-2-439, AND 85-2-440, MCA, SECTION 6, CHAPTER 322, LAWS OF 1995, SECTION

1 14, CHAPTER 487, LAWS OF 1995, SECTION 3, CHAPTER 433, LAWS OF 2001, AND SECTION 3,
2 CHAPTER 122, LAWS OF 2003; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

3

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

5

6 **Section 1.** Section 85-2-102, MCA, is amended to read:

7 **"85-2-102. (Temporary) Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter, the
8 following definitions apply:

9 (1) "Appropriate" means:

10 (a) to divert, impound, or withdraw (including by stock for stock water) a quantity of water for a beneficial
11 use;

12 (b) in the case of a public agency, to reserve water in accordance with 85-2-316;

13 (c) in the case of the department of fish, wildlife, and parks, to lease water in accordance with 85-2-436;

14 or

15 (d) ~~in the Upper Clark Fork River basin, to maintain and enhance streamflows to benefit the fishery~~
16 ~~resource in accordance with 85-2-439~~ to maintain or enhance streamflows to benefit the fishery resource in
17 accordance with 85-2-408.

18 (2) "Beneficial use", unless otherwise provided, means:

19 (a) a use of water for the benefit of the appropriator, other persons, or the public, including but not
20 limited to agricultural (including stock water), domestic, fish and wildlife, industrial, irrigation, mining, municipal,
21 power, and recreational uses;

22 (b) a use of water appropriated by the department for the state water leasing program under 85-2-141
23 and of water leased under a valid lease issued by the department under 85-2-141;

24 (c) a use of water by the department of fish, wildlife, and parks pursuant to a lease authorized under
25 85-2-436; or

26 (d) ~~a use of water to maintain and enhance streamflows to benefit the fishery resource in the Upper~~
27 ~~Clark Fork River basin as part of the Upper Clark Fork River basin instream flow pilot program authorized under~~
28 ~~85-2-439~~ a use of water through a change in appropriation right or lease for instream flow to benefit the fishery
29 resource in accordance with 85-2-408.

30 (3) "Certificate" means a certificate of water right issued by the department.

1 (4) "Change in appropriation right" means a change in the place of diversion, the place of use, the
2 purpose of use, or the place of storage.

3 (5) "Commission" means the fish, wildlife, and parks commission provided for in 2-15-3402.

4 (6) "Correct and complete" means that the information required to be submitted conforms to the
5 standard of substantial credible information and that all of the necessary parts of the form requiring the
6 information have been filled in with the required information.

7 (7) "Declaration" means the declaration of an existing right filed with the department under section 8,
8 Chapter 452, Laws of 1973.

9 (8) "Department" means the department of natural resources and conservation provided for in Title 2,
10 chapter 15, part 33.

11 (9) "Developed spring" means any artificial opening or excavation in the ground, however made,
12 including any physical alteration at the point of discharge regardless of whether it results in any increase in the
13 yield of ground water, from which ground water is sought or can be obtained or through which it flows under
14 natural pressures or is artificially withdrawn.

15 (10) "Existing right" or "existing water right" means a right to the use of water that would be protected
16 under the law as it existed prior to July 1, 1973. The term includes federal non-Indian and Indian reserved water
17 rights created under federal law and water rights created under state law.

18 (11) "Ground water" means any water that is beneath the ground surface.

19 (12) "Late claim" means a claim to an existing right forfeited pursuant to the conclusive presumption of
20 abandonment under 85-2-226.

21 (13) "Permit" means the permit to appropriate issued by the department under 85-2-301 through
22 85-2-303 and 85-2-306 through 85-2-314.

23 (14) "Person" means an individual, association, partnership, corporation, state agency, political
24 subdivision, the United States or any agency of the United States, or any other entity.

25 (15) "Political subdivision" means any county, incorporated city or town, public corporation, or district
26 created pursuant to state law or other public body of the state empowered to appropriate water. The term does
27 not mean a private corporation, association, or group.

28 (16) "Salvage" means to make water available for beneficial use from an existing valid appropriation
29 through application of water-saving methods.

30 (17) "State water reservation" means a water right created under state law after July 1, 1973, that

1 reserves water for existing or future beneficial uses or that maintains a minimum flow, level, or quality of water
2 throughout the year or at periods or for defined lengths of time.

3 (18) "Substantial credible information" means probable, believable facts sufficient to support a
4 reasonable legal theory upon which the department should proceed with the action requested by the person
5 providing the information.

6 (19) "Waste" means the unreasonable loss of water through the design or negligent operation of an
7 appropriation or water distribution facility or the application of water to anything but a beneficial use.

8 (20) "Water" means all water of the state, surface and subsurface, regardless of its character or manner
9 of occurrence, including but not limited to geothermal water, diffuse surface water, and sewage effluent.

10 (21) "Water division" means a drainage basin as defined in 3-7-102.

11 (22) "Water judge" means a judge as provided for in Title 3, chapter 7.

12 (23) "Water master" means a master as provided for in Title 3, chapter 7.

13 (24) "Watercourse" means any naturally occurring stream or river from which water is diverted for
14 beneficial uses. It does not include ditches, culverts, or other constructed waterways.

15 (25) "Well" means any artificial opening or excavation in the ground, however made, by which ground
16 water is sought or can be obtained or through which it flows under natural pressures or is artificially withdrawn.
17 (~~Terminates June 30, 2005--sec. 14, Ch. 487, L. 1995.~~)

18 ~~———— 85-2-102. (Effective July 1, 2005) Definitions. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter,~~
19 ~~the following definitions apply:~~

20 ~~———— (1) "Appropriate" means:~~

21 ~~———— (a) to divert, impound, or withdraw (including by stock for stock water) a quantity of water;~~

22 ~~———— (b) in the case of a public agency, to reserve water in accordance with 85-2-316; or~~

23 ~~———— (c) in the case of the department of fish, wildlife, and parks, to lease water in accordance with 85-2-436.~~

24 ~~———— (2) "Beneficial use", unless otherwise provided, means:~~

25 ~~———— (a) a use of water for the benefit of the appropriator, other persons, or the public, including but not~~
26 ~~limited to agricultural (including stock water), domestic, fish and wildlife, industrial, irrigation, mining, municipal,~~
27 ~~power, and recreational uses;~~

28 ~~———— (b) a use of water appropriated by the department for the state water leasing program under 85-2-141~~
29 ~~and of water leased under a valid lease issued by the department under 85-2-141; and~~

30 ~~———— (c) a use of water by the department of fish, wildlife, and parks pursuant to a lease authorized under~~

- 1 ~~85-2-436.~~
- 2 ~~———(3) "Certificate" means a certificate of water right issued by the department.~~
- 3 ~~———(4) "Change in appropriation right" means a change in the place of diversion, the place of use, the~~
4 ~~purpose of use, or the place of storage.~~
- 5 ~~———(5) "Commission" means the fish, wildlife, and parks commission provided for in 2-15-3402.~~
- 6 ~~———(6) "Correct and complete" means that the information required to be submitted conforms to the~~
7 ~~standard of substantial credible information and that all of the necessary parts of the form requiring the~~
8 ~~information have been filled in with the required information.~~
- 9 ~~———(7) "Declaration" means the declaration of an existing right filed with the department under section 8,~~
10 ~~Chapter 452, Laws of 1973.~~
- 11 ~~———(8) "Department" means the department of natural resources and conservation provided for in Title 2,~~
12 ~~chapter 15, part 33.~~
- 13 ~~———(9) "Developed spring" means any artificial opening or excavation in the ground, however made,~~
14 ~~including any physical alteration at the point of discharge regardless of whether it results in any increase in the~~
15 ~~yield of ground water, from which ground water is sought or can be obtained or through which it flows under~~
16 ~~natural pressures or is artificially withdrawn.~~
- 17 ~~———(10) "Existing right" or "existing water right" means a right to the use of water that would be protected~~
18 ~~under the law as it existed prior to July 1, 1973. The term includes federal non-Indian and Indian reserved water~~
19 ~~rights created under federal law and water rights created under state law.~~
- 20 ~~———(11) "Ground water" means any water that is beneath the ground surface.~~
- 21 ~~———(12) "Late claim" means a claim to an existing right forfeited pursuant to the conclusive presumption of~~
22 ~~abandonment under 85-2-226.~~
- 23 ~~———(13) "Permit" means the permit to appropriate issued by the department under 85-2-301 through~~
24 ~~85-2-303 and 85-2-306 through 85-2-314.~~
- 25 ~~———(14) "Person" means an individual, association, partnership, corporation, state agency, political~~
26 ~~subdivision, the United States or any agency of the United States, or any other entity.~~
- 27 ~~———(15) "Political subdivision" means any county, incorporated city or town, public corporation, or district~~
28 ~~created pursuant to state law or other public body of the state empowered to appropriate water. The term does~~
29 ~~not mean a private corporation, association, or group.~~
- 30 ~~———(16) "Salvage" means to make water available for beneficial use from an existing valid appropriation~~

1 through application of water-saving methods.

2 ~~—— (17) "State water reservation" means a water right created under state law after July 1, 1973, that~~
 3 ~~reserves water for existing or future beneficial uses or that maintains a minimum flow, level, or quality of water~~
 4 ~~throughout the year or at periods or for defined lengths of time.~~

5 ~~—— (18) "Substantial credible information" means probable, believable facts sufficient to support a~~
 6 ~~reasonable legal theory upon which the department should proceed with the action requested by the person~~
 7 ~~providing the information.~~

8 ~~—— (19) "Waste" means the unreasonable loss of water through the design or negligent operation of an~~
 9 ~~appropriation or water distribution facility or the application of water to anything but a beneficial use.~~

10 ~~—— (20) "Water" means all water of the state, surface and subsurface, regardless of its character or manner~~
 11 ~~of occurrence, including but not limited to geothermal water, diffuse surface water, and sewage effluent.~~

12 ~~—— (21) "Water division" means a drainage basin as defined in 3-7-102.~~

13 ~~—— (22) "Water judge" means a judge as provided for in Title 3, chapter 7.~~

14 ~~—— (23) "Water master" means a master as provided for in Title 3, chapter 7.~~

15 ~~—— (24) "Watercourse" means any naturally occurring stream or river from which water is diverted for~~
 16 ~~beneficial uses. It does not include ditches, culverts, or other constructed waterways.~~

17 ~~—— (25) "Well" means any artificial opening or excavation in the ground, however made, by which ground~~
 18 ~~water is sought or can be obtained or through which it flows under natural pressures or is artificially withdrawn.~~
 19 (Terminates June 30, 2009--sec. 9, Ch. 123, L. 1999.)

20 **85-2-102. (Effective July 1, 2009) Definitions.** Unless the context requires otherwise, in this chapter,
 21 the following definitions apply:

22 (1) "Appropriate" means:

23 (a) to divert, impound, or withdraw (including by stock for stock water) a quantity of water for a beneficial
 24 use; or

25 (b) in the case of a public agency, to reserve water in accordance with 85-2-316; or

26 (c) to maintain or enhance streamflows to benefit the fishery resource in accordance with 85-2-408.

27 (2) "Beneficial use", unless otherwise provided, means:

28 (a) a use of water for the benefit of the appropriator, other persons, or the public, including but not
 29 limited to agricultural (including stock water), domestic, fish and wildlife, industrial, irrigation, mining, municipal,
 30 power, and recreational uses; ~~or~~

1 (b) a use of water appropriated by the department for the state water leasing program under 85-2-141
2 and of water leased under a valid lease issued by the department under 85-2-141; or

3 (c) a use of water through a change in appropriation right or lease for instream flow to benefit the fishery
4 resource in accordance with 85-2-408.

5 (3) "Certificate" means a certificate of water right issued by the department.

6 (4) "Change in appropriation right" means a change in the place of diversion, the place of use, the
7 purpose of use, or the place of storage.

8 (5) "Correct and complete" means that the information required to be submitted conforms to the
9 standard of substantial credible information and that all of the necessary parts of the form requiring the
10 information have been filled in with the required information.

11 (6) "Declaration" means the declaration of an existing right filed with the department under section 8,
12 Chapter 452, Laws of 1973.

13 (7) "Department" means the department of natural resources and conservation provided for in Title 2,
14 chapter 15, part 33.

15 (8) "Developed spring" means any artificial opening or excavation in the ground, however made,
16 including any physical alteration at the point of discharge regardless of whether it results in any increase in the
17 yield of ground water, from which ground water is sought or can be obtained or through which it flows under
18 natural pressures or is artificially withdrawn.

19 (9) "Existing right" or "existing water right" means a right to the use of water that would be protected
20 under the law as it existed prior to July 1, 1973. The term includes federal non-Indian and Indian reserved water
21 rights created under federal law and water rights created under state law.

22 (10) "Ground water" means any water that is beneath the ground surface.

23 (11) "Late claim" means a claim to an existing right forfeited pursuant to the conclusive presumption of
24 abandonment under 85-2-226.

25 (12) "Permit" means the permit to appropriate issued by the department under 85-2-301 through
26 85-2-303 and 85-2-306 through 85-2-314.

27 (13) "Person" means an individual, association, partnership, corporation, state agency, political
28 subdivision, the United States or any agency of the United States, or any other entity.

29 (14) "Political subdivision" means any county, incorporated city or town, public corporation, or district
30 created pursuant to state law or other public body of the state empowered to appropriate water. The term does

1 not mean a private corporation, association, or group.

2 (15) "Salvage" means to make water available for beneficial use from an existing valid appropriation
3 through application of water-saving methods.

4 (16) "State water reservation" means a water right created under state law after July 1, 1973, that
5 reserves water for existing or future beneficial uses or that maintains a minimum flow, level, or quality of water
6 throughout the year or at periods or for defined lengths of time.

7 (17) "Substantial credible information" means probable, believable facts sufficient to support a
8 reasonable legal theory upon which the department should proceed with the action requested by the person
9 providing the information.

10 (18) "Waste" means the unreasonable loss of water through the design or negligent operation of an
11 appropriation or water distribution facility or the application of water to anything but a beneficial use.

12 (19) "Water" means all water of the state, surface and subsurface, regardless of its character or manner
13 of occurrence, including but not limited to geothermal water, diffuse surface water, and sewage effluent.

14 (20) "Water division" means a drainage basin as defined in 3-7-102.

15 (21) "Water judge" means a judge as provided for in Title 3, chapter 7.

16 (22) "Water master" means a master as provided for in Title 3, chapter 7.

17 (23) "Watercourse" means any naturally occurring stream or river from which water is diverted for
18 beneficial uses. It does not include ditches, culverts, or other constructed waterways.

19 (24) "Well" means any artificial opening or excavation in the ground, however made, by which ground
20 water is sought or can be obtained or through which it flows under natural pressures or is artificially withdrawn."

21

22 **Section 2.** Section 85-2-338, MCA, is amended to read:

23 **"85-2-338. Upper Clark Fork River basin steering committee -- membership and duties --**
24 **comprehensive management plan.** (1) There is an Upper Clark Fork River basin steering committee. The
25 steering committee has 22 members, who must be appointed as follows:

26 (a) Each of the six conservation districts in the basin may appoint a member.

27 (b) Each of the six county commissions in the basin may appoint a member.

28 (c) The department director shall appoint the remaining 10 committee members and any additional
29 committee members not appointed under subsections (1)(a) and (1)(b) and shall ensure that committee
30 membership includes a balance of affected basin interests and is in conformance with subsection (2).

1 (2) Steering committee members must be selected on the basis of their knowledge of water use, water
2 management, fish, wildlife, recreation, water quality, and water conservation. Representation on the committee
3 must include but is not limited to representatives from affected:

- 4 (a) agriculture;
- 5 (b) conservation districts;
- 6 (c) departments of state government;
- 7 (d) environmental organizations;
- 8 (e) industries;
- 9 (f) local governments;
- 10 (g) reservation applicants;
- 11 (h) utilities; and
- 12 (i) water users not otherwise represented.

13 (3) Except as provided in subsection (4), steering committee members shall serve 4-year terms and
14 may serve more than one term.

15 (4) Initial term lengths must be staggered in conformance with the following:

- 16 (a) conservation district appointees shall initially serve for 4 years;
- 17 (b) county commissioner appointees shall initially serve for 2 years; and
- 18 (c) as determined by the department, half of the department appointees shall initially serve for 2 years
19 and the remainder shall initially serve for 4 years.

20 (5) The steering committee, consistent with the Upper Clark Fork River basin comprehensive
21 management plan, shall:

22 (a) review the Upper Clark Fork River basin closure and exceptions as provided in 85-2-336 no less
23 than every 5 years after April 14, 1995, and make recommendations to the legislature regarding necessary
24 changes;

25 ~~(b) prepare and submit a report evaluating the Upper Clark Fork River basin instream flow pilot program~~
26 ~~as provided in 85-2-439;~~

27 ~~(c)~~(b) prepare and submit a report concerning the relationship between surface water and ground water
28 and the cumulative impacts of ground water withdrawals in each subbasin;

29 ~~(d)~~(c) provide a forum for all interests to communicate about water issues;

30 ~~(e)~~(d) provide education about water law and water management issues;

- 1 (f)(e) identify short-term and long-term water management issues and problems and identify alternatives
 2 for resolving them;
- 3 (g)(f) identify the potential beneficiaries of and a funding mechanism for new and expanded water
 4 storage sites;
- 5 (h)(g) assist in facilitating the resolution of water-related disputes;
- 6 (i)(h) provide coordination with other basin management and planning efforts;
- 7 (j)(i) advise government agencies about water management and permitting activities;
- 8 (k)(j) consult with local governments within the Upper Clark Fork River basin; and
- 9 (l)(k) report periodically to the legislature."

10

11 **Section 3.** Section 85-2-402, MCA, is amended to read:

12 **"85-2-402. (Temporary) Changes in appropriation rights.** (1) The right to make a change subject to
 13 the provisions of this section in an existing water right, a permit, or a state water reservation is recognized and
 14 confirmed. In a change proceeding under this section, there is no presumption that an applicant for a change
 15 in appropriation right cannot establish lack of adverse effect prior to the adjudication of other rights in the source
 16 of supply pursuant to this chapter. Except as provided in 85-2-410 and subsections (15) and (16) of this section,
 17 an appropriator may not make a change in an appropriation right without the approval of the department or, if
 18 applicable, of the legislature. An applicant shall submit a correct and complete application.

19 (2) Except as provided in subsections (4) through (6), (15), and (16), the department shall approve a
 20 change in appropriation right if the appropriator proves by a preponderance of evidence that the following criteria
 21 are met:

22 (a) The proposed change in appropriation right will not adversely affect the use of the existing water
 23 rights of other persons or other perfected or planned uses or developments for which a permit or certificate has
 24 been issued or for which a state water reservation has been issued under part 3.

25 (b) Except for a lease authorization pursuant to 85-2-436; ~~or a temporary change in appropriation right~~
 26 ~~authorization for instream use to maintain or enhance streamflows~~ to benefit the fishery resource pursuant to
 27 ~~85-2-408, or water use pursuant to 85-2-439 when authorization does not require appropriation works;~~ the
 28 proposed means of diversion, construction, and operation of the appropriation works are adequate.

29 (c) The proposed use of water is a beneficial use.

30 (d) Except for a lease authorization pursuant to 85-2-436 or a temporary change in appropriation right

1 authorization pursuant to 85-2-408 or ~~85-2-439~~ for instream flow to benefit the fishery resource, the applicant
2 has a possessory interest, or the written consent of the person with the possessory interest, in the property
3 where the water is to be put to beneficial use.

4 (e) If the change in appropriation right involves salvaged water, the proposed water-saving methods
5 will salvage at least the amount of water asserted by the applicant.

6 (f) The water quality of an appropriator will not be adversely affected.

7 (g) The ability of a discharge permit holder to satisfy effluent limitations of a permit issued in accordance
8 with Title 75, chapter 5, part 4, will not be adversely affected.

9 (3) The applicant is required to prove that the criteria in subsections (2)(f) and (2)(g) have been met only
10 if a valid objection is filed. A valid objection must contain substantial credible information establishing to the
11 satisfaction of the department that the criteria in subsection (2)(f) or (2)(g), as applicable, may not be met.

12 (4) The department may not approve a change in purpose of use or place of use of an appropriation
13 of 4,000 or more acre-feet of water a year and 5.5 or more cubic feet per second of water unless the appropriator
14 proves by a preponderance of evidence that:

15 (a) the criteria in subsection (2) are met; and

16 (b) the proposed change is a reasonable use. A finding of reasonable use must be based on a
17 consideration of:

18 (i) the existing demands on the state water supply, as well as projected demands for water for future
19 beneficial purposes, including municipal water supplies, irrigation systems, and minimum streamflows for the
20 protection of existing water rights and aquatic life;

21 (ii) the benefits to the applicant and the state;

22 (iii) the effects on the quantity and quality of water for existing uses in the source of supply;

23 (iv) the availability and feasibility of using low-quality water for the purpose for which application has
24 been made;

25 (v) the effects on private property rights by any creation of or contribution to saline seep; and

26 (vi) the probable significant adverse environmental impacts of the proposed use of water as determined
27 by the department pursuant to Title 75, chapter 1, or Title 75, chapter 20.

28 (5) The department may not approve a change in purpose of use or place of use for a diversion that
29 results in 4,000 or more acre-feet of water a year and 5.5 or more cubic feet per second of water being
30 consumed unless:

1 (a) the applicant proves by clear and convincing evidence and the department finds that the criteria in
2 subsections (2) and (4) are met; and

3 (b) for the withdrawal and transportation of appropriated water for out-of-state use, the department then
4 petitions the legislature and the legislature affirms the decision of the department after one or more public
5 hearings.

6 (6) The state of Montana has long recognized the importance of conserving its public waters and the
7 necessity to maintain adequate water supplies for the state's water requirements, including requirements for
8 federal non-Indian and Indian reserved water rights held by the United States for federal reserved lands and in
9 trust for the various Indian tribes within the state's boundaries. Although the state of Montana also recognizes
10 that, under appropriate conditions, the out-of-state transportation and use of its public waters are not in conflict
11 with the public welfare of its citizens or the conservation of its waters, the following criteria must be met before
12 out-of-state use may occur:

13 (a) The department and, if applicable, the legislature may not approve a change in appropriation right
14 for the withdrawal and transportation of appropriated water for use outside the state unless the appropriator
15 proves by clear and convincing evidence and, if applicable, the legislature approves after one or more public
16 hearings that:

17 (i) depending on the volume of water diverted or consumed, the applicable criteria and procedures of
18 subsection (2) or (4) are met;

19 (ii) the proposed out-of-state use of water is not contrary to water conservation in Montana; and

20 (iii) the proposed out-of-state use of water is not otherwise detrimental to the public welfare of the
21 citizens of Montana.

22 (b) In determining whether the appropriator has proved by clear and convincing evidence that the
23 requirements of subsections (6)(a)(ii) and (6)(a)(iii) will be met, the department and, if applicable, the legislature
24 shall consider the following factors:

25 (i) whether there are present or projected water shortages within the state of Montana;

26 (ii) whether the water that is the subject of the proposed change in appropriation might feasibly be
27 transported to alleviate water shortages within the state of Montana;

28 (iii) the supply and sources of water available to the applicant in the state where the applicant intends
29 to use the water; and

30 (iv) the demands placed on the applicant's supply in the state where the applicant intends to use the

1 water.

2 (c) When applying for a change in appropriation right to withdraw and transport water for use outside
3 the state, the applicant shall submit to and comply with the laws of the state of Montana governing the
4 appropriation and use of water.

5 (7) For any application for a change in appropriation right involving 4,000 or more acre-feet of water a
6 year and 5.5 or more cubic feet per second of water, the department shall give notice of the proposed change
7 in accordance with 85-2-307 and shall hold one or more hearings in accordance with 85-2-309 prior to its
8 approval or denial of the proposed change. The department shall provide notice and may hold one or more
9 hearings upon any other proposed change in appropriation right if it determines that the proposed change might
10 adversely affect the rights of other persons.

11 (8) The department or the legislature, if applicable, may approve a change in appropriation right subject
12 to the terms, conditions, restrictions, and limitations that it considers necessary to satisfy the criteria of this
13 section, including limitations on the time for completion of the change. The department may extend time limits
14 specified in the change approval under the applicable criteria and procedures of 85-2-312(3).

15 (9) Upon actual application of water to the proposed beneficial use within the time allowed, the
16 appropriator shall notify the department that the appropriation has been completed. The notification must contain
17 a certified statement by a person with experience in the design, construction, or operation of appropriation works
18 describing how the appropriation was completed.

19 (10) If a change in appropriation right is not completed as approved by the department or legislature or
20 if the terms, conditions, restrictions, and limitations of the change approval are not complied with, the department
21 may, after notice and opportunity for hearing, require the appropriator to show cause why the change approval
22 should not be modified or revoked. If the appropriator fails to show sufficient cause, the department may modify
23 or revoke the change approval.

24 (11) The original of a change approval issued by the department must be sent to the applicant, and a
25 duplicate must be kept in the office of the department in Helena.

26 (12) A person holding an issued permit or change approval that has not been perfected may change the
27 place of diversion, place of use, purpose of use, or place of storage by filing an application for change pursuant
28 to this section.

29 (13) A change in appropriation right contrary to the provisions of this section is invalid. An officer, agent,
30 agency, or employee of the state may not knowingly permit, aid, or assist in any manner an unauthorized change

1 in appropriation right. A person or corporation may not, directly or indirectly, personally or through an agent,
2 officer, or employee, attempt to change an appropriation right except in accordance with this section.

3 (14) The department may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section.

4 (15) (a) An appropriator may change an appropriation right for a replacement well without the prior
5 approval of the department if:

6 (i) the appropriation right is for:

7 (A) ground water outside the boundaries of a controlled ground water area; or

8 (B) ground water inside the boundaries of a controlled ground water area and if the provisions of the
9 order declaring the controlled ground water area do not restrict such a change;

10 (ii) the change in appropriation right is to replace an existing well and the existing well will no longer be
11 used;

12 (iii) the rate and volume of the appropriation from the replacement well are equal to or less than that of
13 the well being replaced and do not exceed:

14 (A) 450 gallons a minute for a municipal well; or

15 (B) 35 gallons a minute and 10 acre-feet a year for all other wells;

16 (iv) the water from the replacement well is appropriated from the same aquifer as the water appropriated
17 from the well being replaced; and

18 (v) a timely, correct and complete notice of replacement well is submitted to the department as provided
19 in subsection (15)(b).

20 (b) (i) After completion of a replacement well and appropriation of ground water for a beneficial use, the
21 appropriator shall file a notice of replacement well with the department on a form provided by the department.

22 (ii) The department shall review the notice of replacement well and shall issue an authorization of a
23 change in an appropriation right if all of the criteria in subsection (15)(a) have been met and the notice is correct
24 and complete.

25 (iii) The department may not issue an authorization of a change in appropriation right until a correct and
26 complete notice of replacement well has been filed with the department. The department shall return a defective
27 notice to the appropriator, along with a description of defects in the notice. The appropriator shall refile a
28 corrected and completed notice of replacement well within 30 days of notification of defects or within a further
29 time as the department may allow, not to exceed 6 months.

30 (iv) If a notice of replacement well is not completed within the time allowed, the appropriator shall:

1 (A) cease appropriation of water from the replacement well pending approval by the department; and
 2 (B) submit an application for a change in appropriation right to the department pursuant to subsections
 3 (1) through (3).

4 (c) The provisions of this subsection (15) do not apply to an appropriation right abandoned under
 5 85-2-404.

6 (d) For each well that is replaced under this subsection (15), the appropriator shall follow the well
 7 abandonment procedures, standards, and rules adopted by the board of water well contractors pursuant to
 8 37-43-202.

9 (e) The provisions of subsections (2), (3), (9), and (10) do not apply to a change in appropriation right
 10 that meets the requirements of subsection (15)(a).

11 (16) (a) An appropriator may change an appropriation right without the prior approval of the department
 12 for the purpose of constructing a redundant water supply well in a public water supply system, as defined in
 13 75-6-102, if the redundant water supply well:

14 (i) withdraws water from the same ground water source as the original well; and

15 (ii) is required by a state or federal agency.

16 (b) The priority date of the redundant water supply well is the same as the priority date of the original
 17 well. Only one well may be used at one time.

18 (c) Within 60 days of completion of a redundant water supply well, the appropriator shall file a notice
 19 of construction of the well with the department on a form provided by the department. The department may
 20 return a defective notice of construction to the appropriator for correction and completion.

21 (d) The provisions of subsections (9) and (10) do not apply to a change in appropriation right that meets
 22 the requirements of this section.

23 ~~(Terminates June 30, 2005--sec. 6, Ch. 322, L. 1995; sec. 14, Ch. 487, L. 1995.)~~

24 ~~———— **85-2-402. (Effective July 1, 2005) Changes in appropriation rights.** (1) The right to make a change~~
 25 ~~subject to the provisions of this section in an existing water right, a permit, or a state water reservation is~~
 26 ~~recognized and confirmed. In a change proceeding under this section, there is no presumption that an applicant~~
 27 ~~for a change in appropriation right cannot establish lack of adverse effect prior to the adjudication of other rights~~
 28 ~~in the source of supply pursuant to this chapter. Except as provided in 85-2-410 and subsections (15) and (16)~~
 29 ~~of this section, an appropriator may not make a change in an appropriation right without the approval of the~~
 30 ~~department or, if applicable, of the legislature. An applicant shall submit a correct and complete application.~~

1 ~~————(2) Except as provided in subsections (4) through (6), (15), and (16), the department shall approve a~~
2 ~~change in appropriation right if the appropriator proves by a preponderance of evidence that the following criteria~~
3 ~~are met:~~

4 ~~————(a) The proposed change in appropriation right will not adversely affect the use of the existing water~~
5 ~~rights of other persons or other perfected or planned uses or developments for which a permit or certificate has~~
6 ~~been issued or for which a state water reservation has been issued under part 3.~~

7 ~~————(b) Except for a lease authorization pursuant to 85-2-436 that does not require appropriation works, the~~
8 ~~proposed means of diversion, construction, and operation of the appropriation works are adequate.~~

9 ~~————(c) The proposed use of water is a beneficial use.~~

10 ~~————(d) The applicant has a possessory interest, or the written consent of the person with the possessory~~
11 ~~interest, in the property where the water is to be put to beneficial use.~~

12 ~~————(e) If the change in appropriation right involves salvaged water, the proposed water-saving methods~~
13 ~~will salvage at least the amount of water asserted by the applicant.~~

14 ~~————(f) The water quality of an appropriator will not be adversely affected.~~

15 ~~————(g) The ability of a discharge permit holder to satisfy effluent limitations of a permit issued in accordance~~
16 ~~with Title 75, chapter 5, part 4, will not be adversely affected.~~

17 ~~————(3) The applicant is required to prove that the criteria in subsections (2)(f) and (2)(g) have been met only~~
18 ~~if a valid objection is filed. A valid objection must contain substantial credible information establishing to the~~
19 ~~satisfaction of the department that the criteria in subsection (2)(f) or (2)(g), as applicable, may not be met.~~

20 ~~————(4) The department may not approve a change in purpose of use or place of use of an appropriation~~
21 ~~of 4,000 or more acre-feet of water a year and 5.5 or more cubic feet per second of water unless the appropriator~~
22 ~~proves by a preponderance of evidence that:~~

23 ~~————(a) the criteria in subsection (2) are met; and~~

24 ~~————(b) the proposed change is a reasonable use. A finding of reasonable use must be based on a~~
25 ~~consideration of:~~

26 ~~————(i) the existing demands on the state water supply, as well as projected demands for water for future~~
27 ~~beneficial purposes, including municipal water supplies, irrigation systems, and minimum streamflows for the~~
28 ~~protection of existing water rights and aquatic life;~~

29 ~~————(ii) the benefits to the applicant and the state;~~

30 ~~————(iii) the effects on the quantity and quality of water for existing uses in the source of supply;~~

1 ~~———(iv) the availability and feasibility of using low-quality water for the purpose for which application has~~
2 ~~been made;~~

3 ~~———(v) the effects on private property rights by any creation of or contribution to saline seep; and~~

4 ~~———(vi) the probable significant adverse environmental impacts of the proposed use of water as determined~~
5 ~~by the department pursuant to Title 75, chapter 1, or Title 75, chapter 20.~~

6 ~~———(5) The department may not approve a change in purpose of use or place of use for a diversion that~~
7 ~~results in 4,000 or more acre-feet of water a year and 5.5 or more cubic feet per second of water being~~
8 ~~consumed unless:~~

9 ~~———(a) the applicant proves by clear and convincing evidence and the department finds that the criteria in~~
10 ~~subsections (2) and (4) are met; and~~

11 ~~———(b) for the withdrawal and transportation of appropriated water for out-of-state use, the department then~~
12 ~~petitions the legislature and the legislature affirms the decision of the department after one or more public~~
13 ~~hearings.~~

14 ~~———(6) The state of Montana has long recognized the importance of conserving its public waters and the~~
15 ~~necessity to maintain adequate water supplies for the state's water requirements, including requirements for~~
16 ~~federal non-Indian and Indian reserved water rights held by the United States for federal reserved lands and in~~
17 ~~trust for the various Indian tribes within the state's boundaries. Although the state of Montana also recognizes~~
18 ~~that, under appropriate conditions, the out-of-state transportation and use of its public waters are not in conflict~~
19 ~~with the public welfare of its citizens or the conservation of its waters, the following criteria must be met before~~
20 ~~out-of-state use may occur:~~

21 ~~———(a) The department and, if applicable, the legislature may not approve a change in appropriation right~~
22 ~~for the withdrawal and transportation of appropriated water for use outside the state unless the appropriator~~
23 ~~proves by clear and convincing evidence and, if applicable, the legislature approves after one or more public~~
24 ~~hearings that:~~

25 ~~———(i) depending on the volume of water diverted or consumed, the applicable criteria and procedures of~~
26 ~~subsection (2) or (4) are met;~~

27 ~~———(ii) the proposed out-of-state use of water is not contrary to water conservation in Montana; and~~

28 ~~———(iii) the proposed out-of-state use of water is not otherwise detrimental to the public welfare of the~~
29 ~~citizens of Montana.~~

30 ~~———(b) In determining whether the appropriator has proved by clear and convincing evidence that the~~

1 requirements of subsections (6)(a)(ii) and (6)(a)(iii) will be met, the department and, if applicable, the legislature
2 shall consider the following factors:

3 ~~—— (i) whether there are present or projected water shortages within the state of Montana;~~

4 ~~—— (ii) whether the water that is the subject of the proposed change in appropriation might feasibly be
5 transported to alleviate water shortages within the state of Montana;~~

6 ~~—— (iii) the supply and sources of water available to the applicant in the state where the applicant intends
7 to use the water; and~~

8 ~~—— (iv) the demands placed on the applicant's supply in the state where the applicant intends to use the
9 water.~~

10 ~~—— (c) When applying for a change in appropriation right to withdraw and transport water for use outside
11 the state, the applicant shall submit to and comply with the laws of the state of Montana governing the
12 appropriation and use of water.~~

13 ~~—— (7) For any application for a change in appropriation right involving 4,000 or more acre-feet of water a
14 year and 5.5 or more cubic feet per second of water, the department shall give notice of the proposed change
15 in accordance with 85-2-307 and shall hold one or more hearings in accordance with 85-2-309 prior to its
16 approval or denial of the proposed change. The department shall provide notice and may hold one or more
17 hearings upon any other proposed change if it determines that the proposed change might adversely affect the
18 rights of other persons.~~

19 ~~—— (8) The department or the legislature, if applicable, may approve a change subject to the terms,
20 conditions, restrictions, and limitations that it considers necessary to satisfy the criteria of this section, including
21 limitations on the time for completion of the change. The department may extend time limits specified in the
22 change approval under the applicable criteria and procedures of 85-2-312(3).~~

23 ~~—— (9) Upon actual application of water to the proposed beneficial use within the time allowed, the
24 appropriator shall notify the department that the appropriation has been completed. The notification must contain
25 a certified statement by a person with experience in the design, construction, or operation of appropriation works
26 describing how the appropriation was completed.~~

27 ~~—— (10) If a change is not completed as approved by the department or legislature or if the terms,
28 conditions, restrictions, and limitations of the change approval are not complied with, the department may, after
29 notice and opportunity for hearing, require the appropriator to show cause why the change approval should not
30 be modified or revoked. If the appropriator fails to show sufficient cause, the department may modify or revoke~~

1 the change approval:

2 ~~———— (11) The original of a change approval issued by the department must be sent to the applicant, and a~~
3 ~~duplicate must be kept in the office of the department in Helena.~~

4 ~~———— (12) A person holding an issued permit or change approval that has not been perfected may change the~~
5 ~~place of diversion, place of use, purpose of use, or place of storage by filing an application for change pursuant~~
6 ~~to this section.~~

7 ~~———— (13) A change in appropriation right contrary to the provisions of this section is invalid. An officer, agent,~~
8 ~~agency, or employee of the state may not knowingly permit, aid, or assist in any manner an unauthorized change~~
9 ~~in appropriation right. A person or corporation may not, directly or indirectly, personally or through an agent,~~
10 ~~officer, or employee, attempt to change an appropriation right except in accordance with this section.~~

11 ~~———— (14) The department may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section.~~

12 ~~———— (15) (a) An appropriator may change an appropriation right for a replacement well without the prior~~
13 ~~approval of the department if:~~

14 ~~———— (i) the appropriation right is for:~~

15 ~~———— (A) ground water outside the boundaries of a controlled ground water area; or~~

16 ~~———— (B) ground water inside the boundaries of a controlled ground water area and if the provisions of the~~
17 ~~order declaring the controlled ground water area do not restrict such a change;~~

18 ~~———— (ii) the change in appropriation right is to replace an existing well and the existing well will no longer be~~
19 ~~used;~~

20 ~~———— (iii) the rate and volume of the appropriation from the replacement well are equal to or less than that of~~
21 ~~the well being replaced and do not exceed:~~

22 ~~———— (A) 450 gallons a minute for a municipal well; or~~

23 ~~———— (B) 35 gallons a minute and 10 acre-feet a year for all other wells;~~

24 ~~———— (iv) the water from the replacement well is appropriated from the same aquifer as the water appropriated~~
25 ~~from the well being replaced; and~~

26 ~~———— (v) a timely, correct and complete notice of replacement well is submitted to the department as provided~~
27 ~~in subsection (15)(b):~~

28 ~~———— (b) (i) After completion of a replacement well and appropriation of ground water for a beneficial use, the~~
29 ~~appropriator shall file a notice of replacement well with the department on a form provided by the department.~~

30 ~~———— (ii) The department shall review the notice of replacement well and shall issue an authorization of a~~

1 change in an appropriation right if all of the criteria in subsection (15)(a) have been met and the notice is correct
2 and complete:

3 ~~—— (iii) The department may not issue an authorization of a change in appropriation right until a correct and
4 complete notice of replacement well has been filed with the department. The department shall return a defective
5 notice to the appropriator, along with a description of defects in the notice. The appropriator shall refile a
6 corrected and completed notice of replacement well within 30 days of notification of defects or within a further
7 time as the department may allow, not to exceed 6 months.~~

8 ~~—— (iv) If a notice of replacement well is not completed within the time allowed, the appropriator shall:~~

9 ~~—— (A) cease appropriation of water from the replacement well pending approval by the department; and~~

10 ~~—— (B) submit an application for a change in appropriation right to the department pursuant to subsections
11 (1) through (3).~~

12 ~~—— (c) The provisions of this subsection (15) do not apply to an appropriation right abandoned under
13 85-2-404.~~

14 ~~—— (d) For each well that is replaced under this subsection (15), the appropriator shall follow the well
15 abandonment procedures, standards, and rules adopted by the board of water well contractors pursuant to
16 37-43-202.~~

17 ~~—— (e) The provisions of subsections (2), (3), (9), and (10) do not apply to a change in appropriation right
18 that meets the requirements of subsection (15)(a).~~

19 ~~—— (16) (a) An appropriator may change an appropriation right without the prior approval of the department
20 for the purpose of constructing a redundant water supply well in a public water supply system, as defined in
21 75-6-102, if the redundant water supply well:~~

22 ~~—— (i) withdraws water from the same ground water source as the original well; and~~

23 ~~—— (ii) is required by a state or federal agency.~~

24 ~~—— (b) The priority date of the redundant water supply well is the same as the priority date of the original
25 well. Only one well may be used at one time.~~

26 ~~—— (c) Within 60 days of completion of a redundant water supply well, the appropriator shall file a notice
27 of construction of the well with the department on a form provided by the department. The department may
28 return a defective notice of construction to the appropriator for correction and completion.~~

29 ~~—— (d) The provisions of subsections (9) and (10) do not apply to a change in appropriation right that meets
30 the requirements of this section. (Terminates June 30, 2009--sec. 9, Ch. 123, L. 1999.)~~

1 **85-2-402. (Effective July 1, 2009) Changes in appropriation rights.** (1) The right to make a change
2 subject to the provisions of this section in an existing water right, a permit, or a state water reservation is
3 recognized and confirmed. In a change proceeding under this section, there is no presumption that an applicant
4 for a change in appropriation right cannot establish lack of adverse effect prior to the adjudication of other rights
5 in the source of supply pursuant to this chapter. Except as provided in 85-2-410 and subsections (15) and (16)
6 of this section, an appropriator may not make a change in an appropriation right without the approval of the
7 department or, if applicable, of the legislature. An applicant shall submit a correct and complete application.

8 (2) Except as provided in subsections (4) through (6), (15), and (16), the department shall approve a
9 change in appropriation right if the appropriator proves by a preponderance of evidence that the following criteria
10 are met:

11 (a) The proposed change in appropriation right will not adversely affect the use of the existing water
12 rights of other persons or other perfected or planned uses or developments for which a permit or certificate has
13 been issued or for which a state water reservation has been issued under part 3.

14 (b) ~~The~~ Except for a temporary change in appropriation right authorization to maintain or enhance
15 streamflows to benefit the fishery resource pursuant to 85-2-408, the proposed means of diversion, construction,
16 and operation of the appropriation works are adequate.

17 (c) The proposed use of water is a beneficial use.

18 (d) ~~The~~ Except for a temporary change in appropriation right authorization pursuant to 85-2-408, the
19 applicant has a possessory interest, or the written consent of the person with the possessory interest, in the
20 property where the water is to be put to beneficial use.

21 (e) If the change in appropriation right involves salvaged water, the proposed water-saving methods
22 will salvage at least the amount of water asserted by the applicant.

23 (f) The water quality of an appropriator will not be adversely affected.

24 (g) The ability of a discharge permit holder to satisfy effluent limitations of a permit issued in accordance
25 with Title 75, chapter 5, part 4, will not be adversely affected.

26 (3) The applicant is required to prove that the criteria in subsections (2)(f) and (2)(g) have been met only
27 if a valid objection is filed. A valid objection must contain substantial credible information establishing to the
28 satisfaction of the department that the criteria in subsection (2)(f) or (2)(g), as applicable, may not be met.

29 (4) The department may not approve a change in purpose of use or place of use of an appropriation
30 of 4,000 or more acre-feet of water a year and 5.5 or more cubic feet per second of water unless the appropriator

1 proves by a preponderance of evidence that:

2 (a) the criteria in subsection (2) are met; and

3 (b) the proposed change is a reasonable use. A finding of reasonable use must be based on a
4 consideration of:

5 (i) the existing demands on the state water supply, as well as projected demands for water for future
6 beneficial purposes, including municipal water supplies, irrigation systems, and minimum streamflows for the
7 protection of existing water rights and aquatic life;

8 (ii) the benefits to the applicant and the state;

9 (iii) the effects on the quantity and quality of water for existing uses in the source of supply;

10 (iv) the availability and feasibility of using low-quality water for the purpose for which application has
11 been made;

12 (v) the effects on private property rights by any creation of or contribution to saline seep; and

13 (vi) the probable significant adverse environmental impacts of the proposed use of water as determined
14 by the department pursuant to Title 75, chapter 1, or Title 75, chapter 20.

15 (5) The department may not approve a change in purpose of use or place of use for a diversion that
16 results in 4,000 or more acre-feet of water a year and 5.5 or more cubic feet per second of water being
17 consumed unless:

18 (a) the applicant proves by clear and convincing evidence and the department finds that the criteria in
19 subsections (2) and (4) are met; and

20 (b) for the withdrawal and transportation of appropriated water for out-of-state use, the department then
21 petitions the legislature and the legislature affirms the decision of the department after one or more public
22 hearings.

23 (6) The state of Montana has long recognized the importance of conserving its public waters and the
24 necessity to maintain adequate water supplies for the state's water requirements, including requirements for
25 federal non-Indian and Indian reserved water rights held by the United States for federal reserved lands and in
26 trust for the various Indian tribes within the state's boundaries. Although the state of Montana also recognizes
27 that, under appropriate conditions, the out-of-state transportation and use of its public waters are not in conflict
28 with the public welfare of its citizens or the conservation of its waters, the following criteria must be met before
29 out-of-state use may occur:

30 (a) The department and, if applicable, the legislature may not approve a change in appropriation right

1 for the withdrawal and transportation of appropriated water for use outside the state unless the appropriator
2 proves by clear and convincing evidence and, if applicable, the legislature approves after one or more public
3 hearings that:

4 (i) depending on the volume of water diverted or consumed, the applicable criteria and procedures of
5 subsection (2) or (4) are met;

6 (ii) the proposed out-of-state use of water is not contrary to water conservation in Montana; and

7 (iii) the proposed out-of-state use of water is not otherwise detrimental to the public welfare of the
8 citizens of Montana.

9 (b) In determining whether the appropriator has proved by clear and convincing evidence that the
10 requirements of subsections (6)(a)(ii) and (6)(a)(iii) will be met, the department and, if applicable, the legislature
11 shall consider the following factors:

12 (i) whether there are present or projected water shortages within the state of Montana;

13 (ii) whether the water that is the subject of the proposed change in appropriation might feasibly be
14 transported to alleviate water shortages within the state of Montana;

15 (iii) the supply and sources of water available to the applicant in the state where the applicant intends
16 to use the water; and

17 (iv) the demands placed on the applicant's supply in the state where the applicant intends to use the
18 water.

19 (c) When applying for a change in appropriation right to withdraw and transport water for use outside
20 the state, the applicant shall submit to and comply with the laws of the state of Montana governing the
21 appropriation and use of water.

22 (7) For any application for a change in appropriation right involving 4,000 or more acre-feet of water a
23 year and 5.5 or more cubic feet per second of water, the department shall give notice of the proposed change
24 in accordance with 85-2-307 and shall hold one or more hearings in accordance with 85-2-309 prior to its
25 approval or denial of the proposed change. The department shall provide notice and may hold one or more
26 hearings upon any other proposed change in appropriation right if it determines that the proposed change might
27 adversely affect the rights of other persons.

28 (8) The department or the legislature, if applicable, may approve a change in appropriation right subject
29 to the terms, conditions, restrictions, and limitations that it considers necessary to satisfy the criteria of this
30 section, including limitations on the time for completion of the change. The department may extend time limits

1 specified in the change approval under the applicable criteria and procedures of 85-2-312(3).

2 (9) Upon actual application of water to the proposed beneficial use within the time allowed, the
3 appropriator shall notify the department that the appropriation has been completed. The notification must contain
4 a certified statement by a person with experience in the design, construction, or operation of appropriation works
5 describing how the appropriation was completed.

6 (10) If a change in appropriation right is not completed as approved by the department or legislature or
7 if the terms, conditions, restrictions, and limitations of the change approval are not complied with, the department
8 may, after notice and opportunity for hearing, require the appropriator to show cause why the change approval
9 should not be modified or revoked. If the appropriator fails to show sufficient cause, the department may modify
10 or revoke the change approval.

11 (11) The original of a change approval issued by the department must be sent to the applicant, and a
12 duplicate must be kept in the office of the department in Helena.

13 (12) A person holding an issued permit or change approval that has not been perfected may change the
14 place of diversion, place of use, purpose of use, or place of storage by filing an application for change pursuant
15 to this section.

16 (13) A change in appropriation right contrary to the provisions of this section is invalid. An officer, agent,
17 agency, or employee of the state may not knowingly permit, aid, or assist in any manner an unauthorized change
18 in appropriation right. A person or corporation may not, directly or indirectly, personally or through an agent,
19 officer, or employee, attempt to change an appropriation right except in accordance with this section.

20 (14) The department may adopt rules to implement the provisions of this section.

21 (15) (a) An appropriator may change an appropriation right for a replacement well without the prior
22 approval of the department if:

23 (i) the appropriation right is for:

24 (A) ground water outside the boundaries of a controlled ground water area; or

25 (B) ground water inside the boundaries of a controlled ground water area and if the provisions of the
26 order declaring the controlled ground water area do not restrict such a change;

27 (ii) the change in appropriation right is to replace an existing well and the existing well will no longer be
28 used;

29 (iii) the rate and volume of the appropriation from the replacement well are equal to or less than that of
30 the well being replaced and do not exceed:

- 1 (A) 450 gallons a minute for a municipal well; or
2 (B) 35 gallons a minute and 10 acre-feet a year for all other wells;
3 (iv) the water from the replacement well is appropriated from the same aquifer as the water appropriated
4 from the well being replaced; and
5 (v) a timely, correct and complete notice of replacement well is submitted to the department as provided
6 in subsection (15)(b).
- 7 (b) (i) After completion of a replacement well and appropriation of ground water for a beneficial use, the
8 appropriator shall file a notice of replacement well with the department on a form provided by the department.
9 (ii) The department shall review the notice of replacement well and shall issue an authorization of a
10 change in an appropriation right if all of the criteria in subsection (15)(a) have been met and the notice is correct
11 and complete.
12 (iii) The department may not issue an authorization of a change in appropriation right until a correct and
13 complete notice of replacement well has been filed with the department. The department shall return a defective
14 notice to the appropriator, along with a description of defects in the notice. The appropriator shall refile a
15 corrected and completed notice of replacement well within 30 days of notification of defects or within a further
16 time as the department may allow, not to exceed 6 months.
- 17 (iv) If a notice of replacement well is not completed within the time allowed, the appropriator shall:
18 (A) cease appropriation of water from the replacement well pending approval by the department; and
19 (B) submit an application for a change in appropriation right to the department pursuant to subsections
20 (1) through (3).
- 21 (c) The provisions of this subsection (15) do not apply to an appropriation right abandoned under
22 85-2-404.
- 23 (d) For each well that is replaced under this subsection (15), the appropriator shall follow the well
24 abandonment procedures, standards, and rules adopted by the board of water well contractors pursuant to
25 37-43-202.
- 26 (e) The provisions of subsections (2), (3), (9), and (10) do not apply to a change in appropriation right
27 that meets the requirements of subsection (15)(a).
- 28 (16) (a) An appropriator may change an appropriation right without the prior approval of the department
29 for the purpose of constructing a redundant water supply well in a public water supply system, as defined in
30 75-6-102, if the redundant water supply well:

- 1 (i) withdraws water from the same ground water source as the original well; and
2 (ii) is required by a state or federal agency.
- 3 (b) The priority date of the redundant water supply well is the same as the priority date of the original
4 well. Only one well may be used at one time.
- 5 (c) Within 60 days of completion of a redundant water supply well, the appropriator shall file a notice
6 of construction of the well with the department on a form provided by the department. The department may
7 return a defective notice of construction to the appropriator for correction and completion.
- 8 (d) The provisions of subsections (9) and (10) do not apply to a change in appropriation right that meets
9 the requirements of this section."

- 10
11 **Section 4.** Section 85-2-404, MCA, is amended to read:
- 12 **"85-2-404. (Temporary) Abandonment of appropriation right.** (1) If an appropriator ceases to use
13 all or a part of an appropriation right with the intention of wholly or partially abandoning the right or if the
14 appropriator ceases using the appropriation right according to its terms and conditions with the intention of not
15 complying with those terms and conditions, the appropriation right is, to that extent, considered abandoned and
16 must immediately expire.
- 17 (2) If an appropriator ceases to use all or part of an appropriation right or ceases using the appropriation
18 right according to its terms and conditions for a period of 10 successive years and there was water available for
19 use, there is a prima facie presumption that the appropriator has abandoned the right for the part not used.
- 20 (3) If an appropriator ceases to use all or part of an appropriation right because the land to which the
21 water is applied to a beneficial use is contracted under a state or federal conservation set-aside program:
- 22 (a) the set-aside and resulting reduction in use of the appropriation right does not represent an intent
23 by the appropriator to wholly or partially abandon the appropriation right or to not comply with the terms and
24 conditions attached to the right; and
- 25 (b) the period of nonuse that occurs for part or all of the appropriation right as a result of the contract
26 may not create or may not be added to any previous period of nonuse to create a prima facie presumption of
27 abandonment.
- 28 (4) The lease of an existing right pursuant to 85-2-436, ~~the use of water pursuant to 85-2-439~~, or a
29 temporary change in appropriation right pursuant to 85-2-407 or 85-2-408 does not constitute an abandonment
30 or serve as evidence that could be used to establish an abandonment of any part of the right.

1 (5) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to existing rights until they have been finally determined in
2 accordance with part 2 of this chapter. (~~Terminates June 30, 2005--sec. 14, Ch. 487, L. 1995.~~)

3 ~~———— **85-2-404. (Effective July 1, 2005) Abandonment of appropriation right.** (1) If an appropriator ceases~~
4 ~~to use all or a part of an appropriation right with the intention of wholly or partially abandoning the right or if the~~
5 ~~appropriator ceases using the appropriation right according to its terms and conditions with the intention of not~~
6 ~~complying with those terms and conditions, the appropriation right is, to that extent, considered abandoned and~~
7 ~~must immediately expire.~~

8 ~~———— (2) If an appropriator ceases to use all or part of an appropriation right or ceases using the appropriation~~
9 ~~right according to its terms and conditions for a period of 10 successive years and there was water available for~~
10 ~~use, there is a prima facie presumption that the appropriator has abandoned the right for the part not used.~~

11 ~~———— (3) If an appropriator ceases to use all or part of an appropriation right because the land to which the~~
12 ~~water is applied to a beneficial use is contracted under a state or federal conservation set-aside program:~~

13 ~~———— (a) the set-aside and resulting reduction in use of the appropriation right does not represent an intent~~
14 ~~by the appropriator to wholly or partially abandon the appropriation right or to not comply with the terms and~~
15 ~~conditions attached to the right; and~~

16 ~~———— (b) the period of nonuse that occurs for part or all of the appropriation right as a result of the contract~~
17 ~~may not create or may not be added to any previous period of nonuse to create a prima facie presumption of~~
18 ~~abandonment.~~

19 ~~———— (4) The lease of an existing right pursuant to 85-2-436 or a temporary change pursuant to 85-2-407~~
20 ~~does not constitute an abandonment or serve as evidence that could be used to establish an abandonment of~~
21 ~~any part of the right.~~

22 ~~———— (5) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to existing rights until they have been finally determined in~~
23 ~~accordance with part 2 of this chapter. (Terminates June 30, 2009--sec. 9, Ch. 123, L. 1999.)~~

24 **85-2-404. (Effective July 1, 2009) Abandonment of appropriation right.** (1) If an appropriator ceases
25 to use all or a part of ~~his~~ an appropriation right with the intention of wholly or partially abandoning the right or if
26 ~~he~~ the appropriator ceases using ~~his~~ the appropriation right according to its terms and conditions with the
27 intention of not complying with those terms and conditions, the appropriation right ~~shall~~ is, to that extent, ~~be~~
28 ~~deemed~~ considered abandoned and ~~shall~~ must immediately expire.

29 (2) If an appropriator ceases to use all or part of ~~his~~ an appropriation right or ceases using ~~his~~ the
30 appropriation right according to its terms and conditions for a period of 10 successive years and there was water

1 available for his use, there ~~shall be~~ is a prima facie presumption that the appropriator has abandoned his the
2 right for the part not used.

3 (3) If an appropriator ceases to use all or part of his an appropriation right because the land to which
4 the water is applied to a beneficial use is contracted under a state or federal conservation set-aside program:

5 (a) the set-aside and resulting reduction in use of the appropriation right does not represent an intent
6 by the appropriator to wholly or partially abandon the appropriation right or to not comply with the terms and
7 conditions attached to the right; and

8 (b) the period of nonuse that occurs for part or all of the appropriation right as a result of the contract
9 may not create or may not be added to any previous period of nonuse to create a prima facie presumption of
10 abandonment.

11 (4) A temporary change in appropriation right pursuant to 85-2-407 or 85-2-408 does not constitute an
12 abandonment or serve as evidence that could be used to establish an abandonment of any part of the right.

13 (5) Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to existing rights until they have been finally determined in
14 accordance with part 2 of this chapter."
15

16 **Section 5.** Section 85-2-407, MCA, is amended to read:

17 **"85-2-407. (Temporary) Temporary changes in appropriation right.** (1) Except as provided in
18 85-2-410, an appropriator may not make a temporary change in appropriation right for the appropriator's use
19 or another's use except with department approval in accordance with 85-2-402 and this section.

20 (2) Except as provided in subsection (9), a temporary change in appropriation right may be approved
21 for a period not to exceed 10 years. A temporary change in appropriation right may be approved for consecutive
22 or intermittent use.

23 (3) ~~An Except as provided in subsection (9), an~~ AN authorization for a temporary change in appropriation
24 right may be renewed by the department for a period not to exceed 10 years: for each additional period. There
25 is no limitation on the number of renewals the appropriator may seek. Renewal of an authorization for a
26 temporary change in appropriation right requires application notice to the department by the appropriator. Upon
27 application receipt of the notice, the department shall notify other appropriators potentially affected by the
28 renewal and shall allow ~~30~~ 90 days for submission of new evidence of adverse effects to other water rights. A
29 temporary change authorization may not be renewed by the department if it determines that the right of an
30 appropriator, other than an appropriator described in subsection (7), is adversely affected.

1 (4) (a) During the term of the original temporary change authorization, the department may modify or
 2 revoke its authorization for a temporary change if it determines that the right of an appropriator, other than an
 3 appropriator described in subsection (7), is adversely affected.

4 (b) An appropriator, other than an appropriator identified in subsection (7), may object:

5 (i) during the initial temporary change application process;

6 (ii) during the temporary change renewal process; and

7 (iii) once during the term of the temporary change permit.

8 (5) The priority of appropriation for a temporary change in appropriation right is the same as the priority
 9 of appropriation of the right that is temporarily changed.

10 (6) Neither a change in appropriation right nor any other authorization right is required for reversion of
 11 the appropriation right to the permanent purpose, place of use, point of diversion, or place of storage after the
 12 period for which a temporary change was authorized expires.

13 (7) A person issued a water use permit with a priority of appropriation after the date of filing of an
 14 application for a temporary change in appropriation right under this section may not object to the exercise of the
 15 temporary change according to its terms, the renewal of the authorization for the temporary change, or the
 16 reversion of the appropriation right to its permanent purpose, place of use, point of diversion, or place of storage.
 17 Persons described in this subsection must be notified of the existence of any temporary change authorizations
 18 from the same source of supply.

19 (8) If a water right for which a temporary change in appropriation right has been approved is transferred
 20 as an appurtenance of real property, the temporary change remains in effect unless another change in
 21 appropriation right is authorized by the department.

22 (9) If the quantity of water that is subject to a temporary change in appropriation right is made available
 23 from the development of a new water conservation or storage project, a temporary change in appropriation right
 24 pursuant to 85-2-408 or 85-2-439 may be approved for a period equal to the expected life of the project, not to
 25 exceed 30 years NOT TO EXCEED 30 YEARS UNLESS A RENEWAL IS OBTAINED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3). A
 26 temporary change in appropriation right may be renewed if the life of the project is greater than what was
 27 originally expected. (Terminates June 30, 2005--sec. 3, Ch. 433, L. 2001; sec. 3, Ch. 122, L. 2003.)

28 ~~85-2-407. (Effective July 1, 2005) Temporary changes in appropriation right. (1) Except as provided~~
 29 ~~in 85-2-410, an appropriator may not make a temporary change in appropriation right for the appropriator's use~~
 30 ~~or another's use except with department approval in accordance with 85-2-402 and this section.~~

1 ~~————(2) A temporary change in appropriation right may be approved for a period not to exceed 10 years. A~~
2 ~~temporary change in appropriation right may be approved for consecutive or intermittent use.~~

3 ~~————(3) An authorization for a temporary change in appropriation right may be renewed by the department~~
4 ~~for a period not to exceed 10 years. Renewal of an authorization for a temporary change in appropriation right~~
5 ~~requires application to the department by the appropriator. Upon application, the department shall notify other~~
6 ~~appropriators potentially affected by the renewal and shall allow 30 days for submission of new evidence of~~
7 ~~adverse effects to other water rights. A temporary change authorization may not be renewed by the department~~
8 ~~if it determines that the right of an appropriator, other than an appropriator described in subsection (7), is~~
9 ~~adversely affected.~~

10 ~~————(4) (a) During the term of the original temporary change authorization, the department may modify or~~
11 ~~revoke its authorization for a temporary change if it determines that the right of an appropriator, other than an~~
12 ~~appropriator described in subsection (7), is adversely affected.~~

13 ~~————(b) An appropriator, other than an appropriator identified in subsection (7), may object:~~

14 ~~————(i) during the initial temporary change application process;~~
15 ~~————(ii) during the temporary change renewal process; and~~
16 ~~————(iii) once during the term of the temporary change permit.~~

17 ~~————(5) The priority of appropriation for a temporary change in appropriation right is the same as the priority~~
18 ~~of appropriation of the right that is temporarily changed.~~

19 ~~————(6) Neither a change in appropriation right nor any other authorization right is required for reversion of~~
20 ~~the appropriation right to the permanent purpose, place of use, point of diversion, or place of storage after the~~
21 ~~period for which a temporary change was authorized expires.~~

22 ~~————(7) A person issued a water use permit with a priority of appropriation after the date of filing of an~~
23 ~~application for a temporary change in appropriation right under this section may not object to the exercise of the~~
24 ~~temporary change according to its terms, the renewal of the authorization for the temporary change, or the~~
25 ~~reversion of the appropriation right to its permanent purpose, place of use, point of diversion, or place of storage.~~
26 ~~Persons described in this subsection must be notified of the existence of any temporary change authorizations~~
27 ~~from the same source of supply.~~

28 ~~————(8) If a water right for which a temporary change has been approved is transferred as an appurtenance~~
29 ~~of real property, the temporary change remains in effect unless another change in appropriation right is~~
30 ~~authorized by the department."~~

1

2 **Section 6.** Section 85-2-408, MCA, is amended to read:

3 **"85-2-408. (Temporary) Temporary change authorization for instream flow -- additional**
 4 **requirements.** (1) The department shall accept and process an application for a temporary change in
 5 appropriation rights to maintain or enhance instream flow to benefit the fishery resource under the provisions
 6 of 85-2-402, 85-2-407, and this section. The application must:

7 (a) include specific information on the length and location of the stream reach in which the streamflow
 8 is to be maintained or enhanced; and

9 (b) provide a detailed streamflow measuring plan that describes the point where and the manner in
 10 which the streamflow must be measured.

11 ~~(2) (a) A temporary change authorization under the provisions of this section is allowable only if the~~
 12 ~~owner of the water right voluntarily agrees to:~~

13 ~~—— (i) change the purpose of a consumptive use water right to instream flow for the benefit of the fishery~~
 14 ~~resource; or~~

15 ~~—— (ii) lease a consumptive use water right to another person for instream flow to benefit the fishery~~
 16 ~~resource.~~

17 ~~—— (b) For the purpose of this section, "person" means and is limited to an individual, association,~~
 18 ~~partnership, or corporation.~~

19 (2) (A) A TEMPORARY CHANGE AUTHORIZATION UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION IS ALLOWABLE ONLY
 20 IF THE OWNER OF THE WATER RIGHT VOLUNTARILY AGREES TO:

21 (I) CHANGE THE PURPOSE OF A CONSUMPTIVE USE WATER RIGHT TO INSTREAM FLOW FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE
 22 FISHERY RESOURCE; OR

23 (II) LEASE A CONSUMPTIVE USE WATER RIGHT TO ANOTHER PERSON FOR INSTREAM FLOW TO BENEFIT THE
 24 FISHERY RESOURCE.

25 (B) FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUBSECTION (2), "PERSON" MEANS AND IS LIMITED TO AN INDIVIDUAL,
 26 ASSOCIATION, PARTNERSHIP, OR CORPORATION.

27 ~~(3)(2)(3)~~ In addition to the requirements of 85-2-402 and 85-2-407, an applicant for a change
 28 authorization under this section shall prove by a preponderance of evidence that:

29 (a) the temporary change authorization for water to maintain and enhance instream flow to benefit the
 30 fishery resource, as measured at a specific point, will not adversely affect the water rights of other persons; and

1 (b) the amount of water for the proposed use is needed to maintain or enhance instream flows to benefit
2 the fishery resource.

3 ~~(4)(3)(4)~~ The department shall approve the method of measurement of the water to maintain and
4 enhance instream flow to benefit the fishery resource through a temporary change authorization as provided in
5 this section.

6 ~~(5) For the purpose of identifying and consulting with individuals or groups that may be affected by the~~
7 ~~proposed change authorization, the applicant shall, 30 days before submitting the application to the department,~~
8 ~~publish notice of the proposed change authorization in a local newspaper of general circulation in the county or~~
9 ~~counties affected.~~

10 ~~(6)(4)(5)~~ Only the owner of the water right may seek enforcement of the temporary change authorization
11 or object under 85-2-308.

12 ~~(7)(5)(6)~~ A temporary change authorization under this section does not create a right of access across
13 private property or allow any infringement of private property rights.

14 ~~(6)(7) The maximum quantity of water that may be changed to maintain and enhance streamflows to~~
15 ~~benefit the fishery resource is the amount historically diverted. However, only the amount historically consumed,~~
16 ~~OR A SMALLER AMOUNT IF SPECIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE LEASE AUTHORIZATION, may be used to maintain or~~
17 ~~enhance streamflows to benefit the fishery resource below the existing point of diversion. (Terminates June 30,~~
18 ~~2005--sec. 6, Ch. 322, L. 1995.)"~~

19

20 **Section 7.** Section 85-2-419, MCA, is amended to read:

21 **"85-2-419. Salvaged water.** It is the declared policy of the state in 85-1-101 to encourage the
22 conservation and full use of water. Consistent with this policy, holders of appropriation rights who salvage water
23 may retain the right to the salvaged water for beneficial use. Except for a short-term lease pursuant to 85-2-410,
24 any use of the right to salvaged water for any purpose or in any place other than that associated with the original
25 appropriation right must be approved by the department as a change in appropriation right in accordance with
26 85-2-402. Sale of the right to salvaged water must also be in accordance with 85-2-403, and the lease of the
27 right to salvaged water must be in accordance with 85-2-408, 85-2-410, or 85-2-436, ~~or 85-2-439.~~"

28

29 **Section 8.** Section 85-2-436, MCA, is amended to read:

30 **"85-2-436. (Temporary) Water leasing study.** (1) The department of fish, wildlife, and parks and the

1 department, in consultation with the environmental quality council, shall conduct and coordinate a study that,
2 at a minimum:

3 (a) provides the following data for each designated stream reach and each pilot lease entered into under
4 subsection (2):

5 (i) the length of the stream reach and how it is determined;

6 (ii) technical methods and data used to determine critical streamflow or volume needed to preserve
7 fisheries;

8 (iii) legal standards and technical data used to determine and substantiate the amount of water available
9 for instream flows through leasing of existing rights;

10 (iv) contractual parameters, conditions, and other steps taken to ensure that each lease in no way harms
11 other appropriators, particularly if the stream is one that experiences natural dewatering; and

12 (v) methods and technical means used to monitor use of water under each lease;

13 (b) based on the data provided under subsection (1)(a), develops a complete model of a water lease
14 and lease authorization that includes a step-by-step explanation of the process from initiation to completion.

15 (2) (a) For purposes of undertaking the study described in subsection (1) and as authorized by law, the
16 department of fish, wildlife, and parks and the department may engage in the activities described in this
17 subsection (2). ~~Except as provided in 85-2-439, for~~ For purposes of this study, this section is the exclusive
18 means by which the department of fish, wildlife, and parks may seek to change an appropriation right to an
19 instream flow purpose.

20 (b) The department of fish, wildlife, and parks, with the consent of the commission, may lease existing
21 rights for the purpose of maintaining or enhancing streamflows for the benefit of fisheries in stream reaches
22 determined eligible by the department pursuant to 85-2-437.

23 (c) Upon receipt of a correct and complete application for a lease from the department of fish, wildlife,
24 and parks, the department shall publish notice of the application as provided in 85-2-307. Parties who believe
25 that they may be adversely affected by the proposed lease may file an objection as provided in 85-2-308. A lease
26 may not be approved until all objections are resolved. After resolving all objections filed under 85-2-308, the
27 department shall authorize a lease of an existing right for the purpose of maintaining or enhancing streamflows
28 for the benefit of fisheries if the applicant submits a correct and complete application and meets the
29 requirements of 85-2-402.

30 (d) The application for a lease authorization must include specific information on the length and location

1 of the stream reach in which the streamflow must be maintained or enhanced and must provide a detailed
2 streamflow measuring plan that describes the points where and the manner in which the streamflow must be
3 measured.

4 (e) The maximum quantity of water that may be leased is the amount historically diverted by the lessor.
5 However, only the amount historically consumed, or a smaller amount if specified by the department in the lease
6 authorization, may be used to maintain or enhance streamflows below the lessor's point of diversion.

7 (f) The lease may not be issued for a term of more than 10 years, but it may be renewed once for up
8 to 10 years, except that a lease of water made available from the development of a water conservation or
9 storage project is restricted to a term equal to the expected life of the project but to not more than 30 years. Upon
10 receiving notice of a lease renewal, the department shall notify other appropriators potentially affected by the
11 lease and shall allow 30 days for submission of new evidence of adverse effects to other water rights. A lease
12 authorization is not required for a renewal unless an appropriator other than an appropriator described in
13 subsection (2)(j) submits evidence of adverse effects to the appropriator's rights that has not been considered
14 previously. If new evidence is submitted, a lease authorization must be obtained according to the requirements
15 of 85-2-402.

16 (g) During the term of the lease, the department may modify or revoke the lease authorization if an
17 appropriator other than an appropriator described in subsection (2)(j) proves by a preponderance of evidence
18 that the appropriator's water right is adversely affected.

19 (h) The priority of appropriation for a lease under this section is the same as the priority of appropriation
20 of the right that is leased.

21 (i) Neither a change in appropriation right nor any other authorization is required for the reversion of the
22 appropriation right to the lessor's previous use.

23 (j) A person issued a water use permit with a priority of appropriation after the date of filing of an
24 application for a lease authorization under this section may not object to the exercise of the lease according to
25 its terms or the reversion of the appropriation right to the lessor according to the lessor's previous use.

26 (k) The department of fish, wildlife, and parks shall pay all costs associated with installing devices or
27 providing personnel to measure streamflows according to the measuring plan submitted under this section.

28 (3) (a) The department of fish, wildlife, and parks shall complete and submit to the department,
29 commission, and environmental quality council an annual study progress report by December 1 of each year.
30 This report must include the applicable information listed in subsection (1) for each lease, a summary of stream

1 reach designation activity under 85-2-437, and a summary of leasing activity on all designated streams. If the
2 department of fish, wildlife, and parks has not leased additional water rights under this section by December 1
3 of any year, the department of fish, wildlife, and parks shall provide compelling justification for that fact in the
4 study progress report.

5 (b) A final study report must be adopted by the department and commission and submitted to the
6 environmental quality council, which shall complete the final report by December 1, 2008.

7 (4) This section does not create the right for a person to bring suit to compel the renewal of a lease that
8 has expired. (Terminates June 30, 2009--sec. 9, Ch. 123, L. 1999.)"

9

10 **NEW SECTION. Section 9. Repealer.** (1) Sections 85-2-409, 85-2-439, and 85-2-440, MCA, are
11 repealed.

12 (2) Section 6, Chapter 322, Laws of 1995, section 14, Chapter 487, Laws of 1995, section 3, Chapter
13 433, Laws of 2001, and section 3, Chapter 122, Laws of 2003, are repealed.

14

15 **NEW SECTION. Section 10. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

16

- END -